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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,355	05/12/2008	Lawrence Solomon	ABT-054	2979
31673 7590 09/13/2011 TED W. WHITLOCK REGISTERED PATENT ATTORNEY, P.A. 5323 SW 38TH AVENUE FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33314				
EXAMINER				
VU, JAKE MINH				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1618				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/13/2011		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/598,355

Applicant(s)

SOLOMON ET AL.

Examiner

JAKE VU

Art Unit

1618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2011.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 53-65, 67-71 and 76-80 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) 54-60, 62-65, 69-71, 78 and 79 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 53, 61, 67, 68, 76, 77 and 80 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/12/11
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of Applicant's Restriction Requirement Response and Information Disclosure Statement filed on 08/12/2011; and Request for Continued Examination and Amendment filed on 08/31/2010.

- Claims 53-65, 67-71, 76-80 are pending in the instant application.
- Claims 54-60, 62-65, 69-71, 78-79 are withdrawn from further consideration.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/30/2010 has been entered.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct

from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 53-71 and 76-80 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Application No. 10/598,344 in view of Lieberman (Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms - tablets, 1990) and Ullman et al (U.S. Patent number 4,215,104, Patent issued Jul. 29, 1980) **are withdrawn** in view the Terminal Disclaimer in re 10/598,344 filed on 08/31/2010.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 53, 61, 67-68, 76-77 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Independent claim 53 recite the first segment has the drug and the second segment has no drugs, wherein the second segment "forming and outer segment" and "providing a breaking segment for breaking through said second segment without...breakage of the first segment. The Examiner finds the out segment for the inactive drug segment to be unclear, since it would not divide the dosage in half if it's on the outside. The Examiner believes the second segment should be on the inside. Please clarify and point to the figure/drawing that Applicant is describing.

The phrase in independent claim 53 recite "a score greater than 50% through the maximum height of one of said first or second segments" is confusing, since the "breaking segment" is on the second segment already. The Examiner assumes the score is on the breaking segment, but this phrase encompasses a score on the first and second segment. Please clarify and point to the figure/drawing that Applicant is describing.

Claim 76 and 77 describe a capsule. It's unclear, because these claims describe the compressed composition with a score is required to be in a capsule. Please clarify.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 53-71 and 76-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lieberman (Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms - tablets, 1990) in view of Ullman et al (U.S. Patent number 4,215,104, Patent issued Jul. 29, 1980 **are withdrawn**).

However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made as discussed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 80 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over HESS et al (CH 648754; machine translation provided by Applicant) in view of UROXATRAL

(<https://members.kaiserpermanente.org/kpweb/drugency/drugdetails.do?drugID=452334&name=Uroxatral+10+mg+24+hr+Tab&index=true>).

Applicant's claims are directed to a composition comprising of: a first segment containing drug (A); and an inner second segment containing free of drugs (I), wherein the tablet structure is A-I-A.

FUJITSU teaches a composition comprised of three layers: a first layer comprising a drug, such as ibuprofen, which reads on the first segment containing drug (A); a second layer containing inactive ingredients between the first and second layer, which reads on free of drug and would read on an inner second segment containing no drugs (I); and a third layer containing a drug, such as isopropylantipyrine, which reads on the first segment containing drug and would have a tablet structure of A-I-A.

The references do not specifically the height greater than the width as claimed by Applicant. The shape of a composition is clearly a result effective parameter that a person of ordinary skill in the art would routinely optimize. Optimization of parameters is a routine practice that would be obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to employ and reasonably would expect success. It would have been customary for an artisan of ordinary skill to determine the optimal high of each layer in order to best achieve the desired results, such as trade design of the tablet (see picture of UROXATRAL with a three-layer tablet). Thus, absent some demonstration of unexpected results from the claimed parameters, this optimization of tablet height would have been obvious at the time of Applicant's invention.

Telephonic Inquiries

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAKE VU whose telephone number is (571)272-8148. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Tue and Thu-Fri 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hartley can be reached on (571) 272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jake M. Vu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1618